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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY France/Switzerland/Italy/USSR
SUBJECT Fragmentary Information on Use of Blood
Substitutes/Stockpiling/Quality and Supply
of Antibiotics

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. There is a growing tendency on the part of European scientists to accept the feasibility of using despeciated bovine plasma as a substitute for human plasma. This was especially noticeable at the meeting on Blood Transfusion held in Geneva during September 1953. A number of scientists from France, Italy, Switzerland and the USSR, who had formerly expressed grave doubts concerning the toxicity of bovine plasma, said that they thought that great progress had been made and that within the very near future bovine plasma would entirely displace human plasma. The USSR delegates stated that bovine plasma was already being widely used in the Soviet Union and that the results were excellent. Several papers were read by the Soviet delegates but I do not, at present, have copies of them.
2. The work on bovine plasma stems from the original researches of Dr. Massons of Barcelona. Refinements and improvements have been made by scientists at the Institut Merieux at Lyons, France, as well as by others. I am not familiar with the precise nature of the work which these scientists have done.
3. Very little stockpiling of human blood has been accomplished in either France or Italy in spite of the large investments which the governments have made for instruments and equipment. The equipment is all located at central depots and is not being fully utilized. France is barely able to supply the demand for blood resulting from the war in Indochina. There is no surplus on hand and the French government would be unable to supply even the quantity of blood which might be made necessary by a mining disaster or other domestic calamity.
4. The USSR has exported small quantities of assorted pharmaceuticals to Western Europe. Those examined were found to be of poor quality. Apparently, the Soviets are able to produce enough penicillin for their own needs. They are forced to import insulin.

* JOSE MO MASSONS

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5. France has the largest antibiotic production of any of the Western European nations. She produces such substances as penicillin, aureomycin etc. in quantities which are not only large enough for her own needs but which enable her to export substantial amounts to neighboring countries. Spain is self-sufficient in the production of antibiotics but has no surplus for export. Italy and Switzerland do not produce enough for their domestic needs and accordingly have to import antibiotics.

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